

KATRIN PINKHAM, LMSW

Date: _____

7/15/20

Gerard Farrell, Board Chair State Board
of Social Work Examiners 4201
Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

RE: Surrender of Social Work License
License Number: 24263
Case Numbers: 2018- 2580 & 2019-2602

Dear Mr. Farrell and Members of the Board:

Please be advised that I have decided to **SURRENDER** my license to practice social work in the State of Maryland, License Number: 24263, effective immediately. I understand that upon surrender of my license, I may not practice social work, with or without compensation, or otherwise engage in the practice of social work in the State of Maryland as it is defined in the Maryland Social Workers Act (the "Act"), Md. Code Ann., Health Occupations. ("Health Occ.") §§ 19-101 *et seq.*, (2014 Repl. Vol. & 2019 Supp.) and other applicable laws. In other words, as of the effective date of this Letter of Surrender, I understand that I am in the same position as an unlicensed individual in the State of Maryland.

I understand that this Letter of Surrender is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT**, and, on the Board's, acceptance becomes a **FINAL ORDER** of the Board.

My decision to surrender my license to practice social work in the State of Maryland has been prompted by an investigation of my license by the Maryland State Board of Social Work Examiners (the "Board"). The results of the investigation led the Board to issue disciplinary charges against me on or about February 14, 2020, under Case Numbers: 2018-2580 & 2019-2602.

I have decided to surrender my license to practice social work in the State of Maryland to avoid further prosecution of the disciplinary charges now pending before the Board. I acknowledge that the Board initiated an investigation of this matter and issued disciplinary charges against me under the Act.

Katrin Pinkham, LMSW

Letter of Surrender

License No.: 24263; Case Numbers: 2018-2580 & 2019-2602

Page 2 of 5

After its investigation the Board charged me with violating the following provisions of Health. Occ. §§ 19-311:

- (4) Commits any act of gross negligence, incompetence, or misconduct in the practice of social work;
- (5) Engages in a course of conduct that is inconsistent with generally accepted professional standards in the practice of social work;
- (6) Violates any provision of this title or regulations governing the practice of social work adopted and published by the Board[.]

The Board also charged me with violating the following provisions of COMAR 10.42.03:

.05 Relationships.

- A. The licensee may not enter into a dual relationship with a client or an individual with whom the client has a close personal relationship.
- D. The licensee may not engage in sexual misconduct with either current or former clients.
- E. The licensee may not engage in sexual misconduct with a client, supervisee, student, trainee, or colleague over whom the licensee exercises professional authority.
- F. The licensee may not terminate professional services or a professional relationship with a client in order to enter into a nonprofessional, social, or sexual relationship with the client or an individual with whom the client has a personal relationship[.]

.06 Standards of Practice.

- B. A licensee may not:
 - (1) Undertake or continue a professional relationship with a client when the competence or objectivity of the licensee is or could reasonably be expected to be impaired due to:
 - (a) Mental, emotional, physiological, pharmacological, substance abuse, or personal problems; or
 - (b) The licensee's present or previous familial, social, sexual, emotional, financial, supervisory, political, administrative, legal, or other relationship with the client or a person associated with or related to the client; or

Katrin Pinkham, LMSW

Letter of Surrender

License No.: 24263; Case Numbers: 2018-2580 & 2019-2602

Page 3 of 5

- (2) Engage in other relationships that could limit the licensee's objectivity or create a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest[.]

I wish to make clear that I have voluntarily, knowingly, and freely chosen to submit this Letter of Surrender to avoid prosecution of the aforementioned charges under the Act. I acknowledge that if the case were to proceed to an evidentiary hearing, the State would be able to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that I violated the Act as charged. I acknowledge that for all purposes relevant to social work licensure, those investigative findings will be treated as if proven.

I further acknowledge that the State can prove that I was employed as an Addictions Counselor at Maryland based alcohol and substance abuse treatment facility ("Facility A"). I began working at Facility A on or about August 11, 2018. As part of my job, I held group counseling sessions approximately three times per week. A client ("Client") attended these group counseling sessions. I abruptly quit my employment with Facility A on or about November 19, 2018. Following my abrupt resignation, Facility A received information that I had moved a facility client into my home as my boyfriend. Upon further investigation, Facility A determined that I had moved Client into my home. On or about December 13, 2018, I was hired as a Clinician/LMSW at a different Maryland based alcohol and substance abuse treatment facility ("Facility B"). On January 7, 2019, I was terminated from Facility B after the Director of DRC learned that I had abruptly left my prior employment at Facility A and was having a romantic relationship with one of my clients. On May 8, 2019, during an interview conducted by Board staff, I admitted under oath the following:

- a. Client and I had a non-sexual personal relationship prior to his admission to Facility A.
- b. I provided group counseling sessions at Facility A and the Client was present during some of these group counseling sessions.
- c. Client moved into my home as my boyfriend in the middle of December 2018.
- d. Client was currently living with me in my home.

I understand that by executing this Letter of Surrender I am waiving any right to contest the charges in a formal evidentiary hearing at which I would have had the right to counsel, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to call witnesses on my own behalf and all other substantive and procedural protections provided by law, including the right to appeal.

I understand that the Board will advise the National Practitioners' Data Bank of this Letter of Surrender, and in any response to any inquiry, that I have surrendered my license in lieu of further disciplinary action under the Act. I also understand that in the

Katrin Pinkham, LMSW

Letter of Surrender

License No.: 24263; Case Numbers: 2018-2580 & 2019-2602

Page 4 of 5

event I would apply for license in any form in any other state or jurisdiction, that this Letter of Surrender and the underlying investigative documents may be released or published by the Board to the same extent as a final order that would result from disciplinary action, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Govt., § 10-611 *et seq.*, (2014 Repl. Vol & 2019Supp.), and that this Letter of Surrender is considered a disciplinary action by the Board.

I affirm that on or before the date of Board's acceptance of this Letter of Surrender, I will provide to Board staff my social work licenses. As a condition of petitioning for reinstatement of my Maryland License, I will submit to a mental health evaluation by a Board-assigned evaluator at my expense. I will also need to provide documentation that I have satisfied all my continuing education requirements for all subsequent renewal periods that I am not licensed by the Board. If I apply for reinstatement of my Maryland License, the Board has full discretion to grant or deny my reinstatement. If the Board denies my application, I do not have the right to a hearing or to appeal the Board's decision. If the Board does grant reinstatement, it may impose any terms and conditions the Board considers appropriate for public safety and the protection of the integrity and reputation of the profession. I understand that when applying for reinstatement, I will approach Board in the same posture as one whose license has been revoked. I also understand that if I apply for reinstatement, I bear the burden of demonstrating my professional competence and fitness to practice social work to the satisfaction of the Board.

I acknowledge that I may not rescind this Letter of Surrender in part or in its entirety for any reason whatsoever. Finally, I wish to make clear that I have been advised of my right to be represented by the attorney of my choice throughout proceedings before the Board, including the right to counsel with an attorney prior to signing this Letter of Surrender. I understand both the nature of the Board's actions and this Letter of Surrender fully. I acknowledge that I understand and comprehend the language, meaning and terms and effect of this Letter of Surrender. I voluntarily choose to surrender my Maryland license to practice social work pursuant to the terms and conditions set out herein. I make this decision knowingly and voluntarily.

Very truly yours,

Katrin Pinkham, LMSW

NOTARY

Katrin Pinkham, LMSW
Letter of Surrender
License No.: 24263; Case Numbers: 2018-2580 & 2019-2602
Page 5 of 5

STATE OF MARYLAND
CITY/COUNTY OF Washington

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 15 day of July
2020, before me, a Notary Public of the State and City/County aforesaid, personally
appeared



KATRIN PINKHAM, LMSW declared and affirmed under the penalties of
perjury that signing the foregoing Letter of Surrender was her voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESS my hand and Notarial seal.


Notary Public

My Commission expires:



ACCEPTANCE

On this 15th day of October, 2020, I, Gerard Farrell,
on behalf of the Maryland State Board of Social Work Examiners, accept the
SURRENDER of the license of **KATRIN PINKHAM, LMSW** to practice social work
in the State of Maryland.



Gerard Farrell
Board Chair,
Maryland State Board of Social Work Examiners